

Please make the following amendments to the claims:

1. (currently amended) An anti-human cytomegalovirus RNase resistant RNA polynucleotide ligand composition of from 15 to 100 nucleotides in length, ~~and~~ which lacks complementarity to a said human cytomegalovirus genetic sequence; binds to ~~said~~ human cytomegalovirus; and inhibits ~~said~~ human cytomegalovirus infection.

2-5 (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The polynucleotide ligand of Claim 8 ~~5~~, wherein said RNA comprises 2-amino pyrimidine nucleotides.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) ~~An anti-human cytomegalovirus polynucleotide ligand, wherein said polynucleotide comprises~~ comprising the sequence set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 12 to SEQ ID NO:16.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A polynucleotide ligand ~~The polynucleotide ligand of Claim 8, wherein said ligand comprises~~ comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:12.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The polynucleotide ligand composition of Claim 8 ~~4~~, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (previously amended) The polynucleotide ligand composition of Claim 12, wherein said polynucleotide ligand composition comprises two or more distinct sequences.

14. (currently amended) The polynucleotide ligand composition of Claim 13, wherein said polynucleotide ligand composition comprising distinct sequences bindss to different epitopes of the virus.

15. (currently amended) A method of treating human cytomegalovirus infection, the method comprising:



administering a dose of an ~~anti-human cytomegalovirus~~ RNAse resistant RNA polynucleotide ligand composition at a dose sufficient to decrease said cytomegalovirus infection, ~~wherein said polynucleotide ligand is from 15 to 100 nucleotides in length, and which lacks complementarity to said human cytomegalovirus genetic sequence; binds to said human cytomegalovirus; and inhibits said human cytomegalovirus infection~~ wherein said polynucleotide comprises the sequence set forth in any of SEQ ID NO: 12 to SEQ ID NO:16.

16. (original) The method of Claim 15, wherein said antiviral polynucleotide blocks viral entry into a cell.

17-18 (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15 48, wherein said RNA comprises 2-amino pyrimidine nucleotides.

20-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15 20, wherein said ligand comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:12.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein said polynucleotide ligand composition comprises two or more distinct sequences.

26. (currently amended) The method of Claim 25 23, wherein said polynucleotide ligand composition comprising distinct sequences binds to different epitopes of the virus.